

I am an Extra Class Amateur radio licensee. I feel that the time for Morse Code has past in terms of a requirement for a license. As in RTTY, packet, ATV, satellite, and other modes, the FCC should allow, yes encourage experimentation, but the mode of Morse Code should be eliminated as a requirement. Morse and PSK31 both take minimum bandwidth, and both have superior penetration with respect to great distances covered per watt of power output. Yet an obstacle exists in licensing new hams, younger people who simply are uninterested and unwilling to learn Morse Code to become a licensee. Does this make them bad people, or poor members of the group of licensees? No, far from it. In my experience, many in the ranks of the volunteers who show up to work public service events and emergencies are the no-code types, who just want to be involved, and are willing to lend youthful energy to the effort. Please vote to eliminate Morse Code as a requirement. Allow it as an optional mode of communication; perhaps ask a theory question or two about it on the written test; even ask what certain Morse characters mean on the written test. And, continue to set aside a portion of the bands for Morse Code, although I feel that the portions now allowed are too large. But.....That's another point. Morse is over, past any practical usefulness. The military doesn't use it; the Coast Guard doesn't use it. It's time to let this go as a requirement. Signed: George Foss N1PP Franconia, NH